

Listing of Claims

The claims pending in the subject-application as of this Amendment are as follows:

Claims 1-12 are canceled.

13. (Currently Amended) An electronic device of the type which alerts a user to an incoming message by connecting an alert signal to a preselected one of a first alert device comprising a vibrator and a second alert devices, comprising:

- a) a detector which monitors the incoming message to detect the presence of a squelch signal broadcast locally by an emitter and generates a control signal at its output when the squelch signal is detected;
- b) a processor operatively connected to the output of the detector;
- c) an alert-mode memory-cell storing one of a default binary value and a user-set binary value;
- d) a buffer memory connected to the processor and (i) configured to store a predetermined binary value when the squelch signal is detected ~~one of two binary values therein in response to the control signal when the squelch signal is detected~~ and also (ii) configured to store the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell in the absence of detection of the squelch signal;
- e) a switch, operatively connected to the processor, to (i) automatically direct the alert signal to the vibrator when buffer memory stores the predetermined binary value and (ii) automatically direct the alert signal to a predetermined one of the first and second alert devices while the squelch signal is being detected as a function of the contents of binary value stored in the buffer memory in the absence of the squelch signal.

Claims 14-21 are canceled.

22. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 13, further comprising a circuit configured to populate the buffer memory with the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell when the broadcast squelch signal ceases being detected.

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23. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 13, further comprising a software program which executes in the processor so as to populate the buffer memory with the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell when the broadcast squelch signal ceases being detected.

24. (Currently Amended) The electronic device ~~method~~ of claim 13, wherein the buffer memory is configured to store only one bit.

25. (Currently Amended) In a device that alerts a user to an incoming message by activating one of an acoustic driver and a vibrator, the device including a buffer memory and an alert-mode memory, the alert mode memory containing one of a default binary value and a user-set binary value, a method for automatically placing the device in a quiet mode of operation comprising the steps of:

- a) detecting the presence of a broadcast squelch signal by monitoring signals that arrive at the device from an emitter;
- b) generating a control signal in response to the detection of the broadcast squelch signal;
- c) writing to the buffer memory (i) a first binary value which signifies the quiet mode of operation in response to the generated control signal and (ii) ~~writing to the buffer memory the contents of the alert-mode memory in the absence of the control signal; and~~
- d) controlling a state of an alert mode switch based on the contents of the buffer memory, ~~whereby; and~~
- e) activating (i) the vibrator is activated in response to the incoming message whenever the binary value in the buffer memory contains is the first binary value, and (ii) either the vibrator or the acoustic driver in response to the incoming message whenever the buffer memory contains the contents of the alert-mode memory.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 25, the alert mode memory contents are a second binary value different than the first binary value, and wherein the alert mode switch activates the acoustic driver in response to the incoming message whenever the binary value in the buffer memory is the second binary value.
27. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 25, wherein the squelch signal originates extrinsic to the device.
28. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises comparing incoming signals that arrive at the device to an expected signal pattern to detect the presence of a squelch signal.
29. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises processing incoming signals that arrive at the device to extract, when present, an indicium of the presence of the squelch signal and thereby detect the presence of a squelch signal.
30. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 25, including the additional step of shunting the acoustic driver for a period of time after the broadcast squelch signal is detected.
31. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 30, wherein the step of shunting the acoustic driver continues for a period of time after the broadcast squelch signal is no longer present.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the detecting step monitors a header of the incoming message for inclusion of the broadcast squelch signal.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the buffer memory is configured to store only one bit.

34. (New) An electronic device of the type which alerts a user to an incoming message by connecting an alert signal to either a vibrator or an acoustic driver, comprising:

a) a detector which monitors the incoming message to detect the presence of a squelch signal broadcast locally by an emitter and generates a control signal at its output when the squelch signal is detected;

b) a processor operatively connected to the output of the detector;

c) an alert-mode memory-cell storing a user-settable binary value;

d) a buffer memory connected to the processor and configured to store (i) a predetermined binary digit in response to the control signal, and (ii) the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell in the absence of the control signal;

e) a switch, operatively connected to the processor, to automatically direct the alert signal to (i) the vibrator when buffer memory stores the predetermined binary digit, and (ii) the vibrator or the acoustic driver, as a function of the contents of the buffer memory, in the absence of the control signal.

35. (New) The electronic device of claim 34, further comprising a circuit configured to populate the buffer memory with the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell when the broadcast squelch signal ceases being detected.

36. (New) The electronic device of claim 34, further comprising a software program which executes in the processor so as to populate the buffer memory with the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell when the broadcast squelch signal ceases being detected.

37. (New) The electronic device of claim 34, wherein the buffer memory is configured to store only one bit.

38. (New) The electronic device of claim 34, wherein the detector includes a comparator configured to compare signals in the incoming messages to an expected signal pattern in order to detect the presence of the squelch signal.

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39. (New) The electronic device of claim 34, wherein the detector is configured to detect the presence of the squelch signal by extracting an indicium of the presence of the squelch signal.

40. (New) The electronic device of claim 34, wherein the detector is configured to monitor a header of the incoming message for inclusion of the broadcast squelch signal.

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